



Holy Family Hospital

A CARITAS FAMILY HOSPITAL

The Family Safety Project

My name is Doug Gaudette, and for the past fourteen years I have been the Director of the Family Safety Project at Holy Family Hospital. On occasion I have also been a patient at Holy Family. A little more than ten years ago I had brain surgery at Holy Family, a procedure that in no small way saved my life. More recently I have had two vocal cord surgeries and, I suspect, more throat intervention is in the cards. Needless to say, I am very grateful to this facility and I have complete faith and confidence in the care provided here at Holy Family.

The Family Safety Project is not a program that one normally associates with a hospital. In fact, I know of no other hospital that offers the range of domestic violence intervention services that we offer at Holy Family. Because of this it's probably important to briefly explain some of the services we provide.

For fourteen years we have worked diligently to help assure the physical and psychological safety of adult and child victims of domestic violence. We have done this by providing individual and group treatment to children (and their non-offending parent) that have been impacted by violence in the home. We also provide comprehensive victim advocacy services to patients of our hospital whose lives and health have been affected by domestic violence. Additionally, we have developed one of the state's largest Department of Public Health certified batterer intervention programs, and certified batterer intervention program training facilities. The goal of our work with perpetrators is to collaborate with other community agencies to increase victim safety by holding batterers accountable for their behavior. We have also played a key role in developing instruments and protocols to help assess and manage the risk (of continued or increased assault). For the past eight years we have conducted a Responsible Fatherhood Program for dads who want to learn about better ways of parenting. Lastly Holy Family Hospital's Family Safety Project operates the state wide Elder Abuse Hotline. This is a round-the-clock service that receives and refers an average of 320 reports of suspected abuse and neglect of Massachusetts elders each month. Two years ago, our program was highlighted at the annual Healthcare Response to Domestic Violence Conference in San Francisco.

While we receive some state and federal funding, it is clear that our programs could not exist without the additional financial support of the hospital. All our victim services are provided free of charge, to a large extent, because of the matching funds and "in-kind" contributions of Holy Family. Offering these services requires a significant financial commitment on the part of the hospital. One contract alone (our MOVA contract for children's services) mandates at least 25% matching funds. The sale to Cerberus will assure the financial stability of our hospital and enable us to continue to operate, if not expand, these vital services. The sale to Cerberus is especially important now given looming cutbacks in state funding at a time when requests for domestic violence services have markedly increased. Holy Family Hospital has clearly demonstrated its understanding that domestic violence is a health care issue. I wholeheartedly support and endorse the sale of our hospital system to Cerberus. This is the only way we can continue to impact the physical and psychological safety of victims of domestic violence (including the youngest victims), and positively impact the healthcare of our patients and our community. Thank you for the invitation and opportunity to be heard on this critical issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. John Crandall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.